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1 April 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 1 April 1966

25X1 [] of the Board of National Estimates gave a briefing on his recent trip to the Far East.

DD/I tabled a memo on Soviet submarines which contains pictures, identifications, and descriptions of the various types.

DD/I reported on a geographic briefing on Vietnam given to the Vice President yesterday by Agency officers in answer to a recent request from the Vice President for information relating to the feasibility of establishing a physical barrier along the western SVN border. Briefers mentioned the French "Maurice Line," a 100-mile-long barrier installed in Algeria which was patrolled by some 40,000 troops. This was of interest to the Vice President.

DD/I noted a simulated air defense exercise in the USSR recently involving a penetration by an SR-71-type aircraft. DIA intends to publish an article on this tomorrow. It was agreed that we would do so also.

Godfrey briefed on the disorderly situation in South Vietnam. This led to a lengthy discussion of the outlook and options which may obtain. Carver reported that he is already at work on various courses of action and options and will circulate a paper within the Agency for comment prior to submission to the DCI.

Kent reported on a meeting held yesterday as a result of the DCI's interest involving various Agency officers with an officer from [] 25X1 [] known to the DCI. Discussion centered around analytical procedures which the [] officer thought might have application in the Agency.

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[] reported that the latest Soviet moon shot is on a good trajectory, easily corrigible. A rather massive Western tracking effort is under way, and good information is in hand.

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[] asked for guidance on the manner in which to prepare for the DCI's further actions with regard to OXCART deployment. DCI plans to use a "well-done and convincing" paper on this subject in talks with the Secretary of State and Secretary of Defense prior to deciding on the question of making a presentation to the President. This grows from a 303 Committee reluctance to approve the plan.

Carver reported that deSilva will return to Washington on 7 April.

Carver reported on work being done by the Agency ad hoc group looking to various possibilities for blocking supplies moving through the Laotian corridors as an alternative to current consideration of installation of physical barriers.

Houston reported on talks yesterday with a Senate subcommittee investigative team looking into disposition of surplus military equipment in the Far East. The team is cooperative and will drop plans to pursue with the Army certain evidence that work done by the Agency is more effective than that of the Army.

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DDCI reported on the status of arrangements to organize an inter-agency intelligence task force to deal with certain NATO and French issues. [] will be the chairman. DD/I will be represented. It was agreed that this group will maintain contact with certain work being done by NIPE and Pentagon officials in connection with exchange of intelligence information within NATO. It was agreed that there is much importance in undertaking to ensure that the Community is kept informed of the status of negotiations with the French.

DCI noted that Senator Symington leaves for a European trip today. Arrangements for station briefings have been made.

At DCI inquiry the Executive Director explained arrangements being made by General Betts to display various weapons tests at Aberdeen. DCI reaffirmed his desire to attend such a display. In this regard, DCI asked DD/S when he could expect to receive a paper on the best possible weapon for use in SEA. DD/S said this was the subject of continuing study but that there are split opinions as to the best possible weapon.

[]

L. K. White

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